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Dear Friends:

For years, the Indiana Senate has gone on record in favor of reducing government's reliance upon local property taxes, which have doubled statewide over the past 10 years. In recent years, the Senate has adopted a number of substantial, permanent and fair property tax reform measures.

The Senate led the fight to eliminate the Indiana inheritance ("death") tax and, in 1997, succeeded in gaining a significant break on the inheritance tax. A year later, 42 of 50 senators voted to remove local schools' operating expenses from property taxes. Had the measure become law, property taxes would have been cut by 30 percent statewide.

In addition, the Senate repeatedly has voted to phase-out the inventory tax which has resulted in the loss of countless jobs in transportation, warehousing and distribution to neighboring states. Both the inheritance tax and inventory tax are burdensome to Indiana's family farmers, whose contribution to the state's economy is immeasurable.

This year, the Senate insisted upon continuing the 10 percent state-funded homestead property tax credit to which all homeowners are entitled on their principal place of residence. Had we not done so, homeowners' property taxes automatically would have gone up 6 percent at the end of this year. The Senate is on record in favor of lower property taxes. You can be assured we remain committed to this fight.

Sincerely,

David Ford

DAVID FORD

**IN A SENATE
SECOND**



**STATE
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**In an Average
Week In
Indiana:**

**1,605
babies are born**

**223
babies are born
to teenage
mothers
(ages 15-19)**

**61
babies are born
to mothers who
receive late or
no prenatal
care**

**123
babies are born
low birthweight**

**21
babies are born
with very low
birthweight**

**13
babies die
before their
first
birthday**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT
BUSH WORKING ON WAYS TO COMBAT
TERRORISM IN INDIANA, NATIONWIDE**

On the morning of September 11, 2001, America's innocence was shattered. We now live in a new America, an America which has sworn that those behind these cowardly acts will be hunted down so they will not triumph again.

Within this new America, government officials must also create new policies to combat terrorism so this devastation and heartache will not be repeated. Precautionary plans and measures must be implemented so federal and local entities may take immediate action to contain the aftermath of such an attack.

This summer the Governor signed anti-terrorism legislation, which I supported, into law. Senate Bill 180 requires the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission to provide training and certification standards for the administration of antidotes, vaccines, and antibiotics in situations relating to a terrorist or military attack.

In addition, the legislation imposes criminal penalties for terrorism, agricultural terrorism, and false reporting of the placement or introduction of a weapon of mass destruction; as well as providing civil immunity

to paramedics and emergency medical technicians acting in response to a terrorist act.

Immediately following the attacks, President George W. Bush began instituting measures to locate and bring to justice those responsible for these attacks as well as defend the United States against additional



Firemen raise the American flag at the site of the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil where the World Trade Center once stood in New York City.

threats.

Thousands of American military personnel are being deployed in preparation for retaliatory strikes against Osama Bin Laden and the al Qaida network who are suspected of masterminding the September 11 attacks.

In addition, Bush has appointed Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to a new cabinet-level position known as the Office

of Homeland Security. This office will monitor terrorists and their activities and work to prevent further attacks. A Foreign Terrorist Asset Tracking Center has also been established which is responsible for locating and freezing the assets of known or suspected terrorist organizations.

The administration has also taken action to make our nation's airlines safer, allocating \$500 million for improvements to commercial jets including fortifications to prevent hijackers from gaining access to cockpits. Many flights will also carry Air Marshals who are trained to handle

hijackings and other emergencies. Federal agents will be posted at commercial airports to conduct baggage checks and monitor security.

Our prayers are with those families who have lost loved ones in these unprecedented terrorist attacks. Yet, we must not be afraid of what tomorrow may bring. Every Hoosier must combat terrorism in his or her own heart by continuing to live by the American way. United, we only grow stronger. Together, we will succeed and prevail over evil.

**SENATOR FORD ENCOURAGES
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN INDI-**

Indiana needs to build an economic base that is vibrant and technology-based. Hoosiers will continue to support heavy industry. Our heritage of steel production and machine manufacturing has provided much of the underpinning for our economic well-being.

The time has come, however, for us to address the issues of technology and its attendant problems with the same deliberation that we have heretofore given to the problems of heavy industry.

In order to attract and develop technologies to Indiana, it is important the state establish a reputation, national and international, as a place where technology companies want to locate and grow.

Among the first priorities

of the legislature should be to bring technologies to the various levels of government.

It is time that modern information systems are utilized to make government services available 24 hours a day 365 days a year. It should be possible for Hoosiers to make hotel reservations at state parks, apply for hunting and fishing licenses and conduct other important transactions online.

The General Assembly has to be a dynamic part of this process. Someone at the policy level has to address how the internet will fit into our public arena. The questions of how electronic commerce will be conducted, taxed and treated legally have already surfaced. They will intensify.

We owe it to those we serve to specially dedicate our efforts to using the modern tools that have been created to improve how government works and to use government to improve the chances for even greater achievement by those who follow us.

It is time the legislature took decisive steps to form partnerships with our colleges and universities, with Indiana businesses and with the federal government to guarantee progress in technology development in our state. It means promoting research and development, securing intellectual property rights, establishing sound tax policy and generally advancing a public agenda that will do more than pay lip service to bringing new technologies to Indiana.

**HOOSIER QUICK
FACTS:**

- Population, 2000: 6,080,485**
- Population, percent change, 1990-2000: 9.7%**
- Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000: 25.9%**
- Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2000: 12.4%**
- Home ownership rate, 2000: 71.4%**
- Persons per square mile, 2000: 169.5**

NEW CURFEW LAW TAKES EFFECT

Earlier this summer, a new curfew law went into effect to provide greater protection for Hoosier youth. After a federal court deemed a similar state curfew statute unconstitutional, I authored an amended curfew bill which recognizes teens' constitutional rights while protecting their safety after hours. The final version of the bill passed the House 87-0, the Senate 47-0 and was signed by the Governor.

Like the old state law, the new legislation makes it illegal for youths younger than 15 to be out in public without their parents or guardian after 11 p.m. or before 5 a.m. on any day of the week. The law for 15, 16, and 17 year-olds dif-

fers only on weekends when they are barred from being out between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Several new exceptions have been added to the legislation to guarantee both parents' and students' rights including parental approval, educational or religious programs, jobs, emergencies, volunteering for not-for-profits and certain interstate travel.

The legislation also makes defenses available to a child who is cited for a curfew violation, including those activities protected by federal or state law, such as conduct involving the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech and the right of assembly.